

CLAIMS

1-12 canceled

13 (currently amended) A liquid distributor for two liquid phases to be distributed uniformly into a plurality of tubes of an upright tube-bundle reactor for carrying out chemical reactions, wherein the tubes are retained at the top and bottom by tubesheets and closed against the outside of the tube, and wherein a distribution chamber is arranged above the upper tubesheet, which chamber contains feed pipes for two different liquids and at least one gas phase, wherein the liquid distributor comprises:

- a first liquid distribution system is arranged above ~~the~~ a tubesheet or on it,
- which first system is connected to at least one outer feed device, and contains a weir, installed outside the tubed area, with openings at the bottom and a plurality of inlet sleeves,
- wherein one inlet sleeve is assigned at the top to each of the tubes in ~~the~~ a tube bundle, the inlet sleeves are of tubular design and are vertically aligned, and ~~the~~ said sleeves have at least one lateral and one further opening located above the tubesheet and are open at the bottom facing each assigned tube in the tube bundle, and
- a second liquid distribution system is arranged above the first liquid distribution system,
- which system is connected to at least one other outer feed device and contains one upper and one lower distribution tray,
- wherein the lower distribution tray contains a plurality of openings which are arranged flush above the inlet sleeves of the first liquid distribution system, and exhibits at least one device for setting a uniform liquid level above the openings,
- wherein the upper distribution tray is connected to the feed device for liquid, and contains a plurality of overflow weirs or plate holes from which the liquid is able to discharge into the lower distribution tray, and wherein each of the overflow weirs is assigned to a plurality of openings in the lower distribution tray.

14 (previously presented) The liquid distributor according to Claim 13, wherein the inlet sleeves exhibit at least one lower, smaller lateral hole, and at least one higher, larger lateral hole.

15 (previously presented) The liquid distributor according to Claim 13, wherein the inlet sleeves exhibit at least one lateral notch through which liquid is able to flow from the tubesheet into the inside of the tube.

16 (previously presented) The liquid distributor according to Claim 15, wherein wire-shaped flow aids are provided in the at least one lateral notch of the inlet sleeves, down which such aids the liquid is able to run on the inside of the inlet sleeves.

17 (previously presented) The liquid distributor according to Claim 13, wherein the upper liquid distribution system rests on the inlet sleeves of the lower liquid distribution system.

18 (previously presented) The liquid distributor according to Claim 13, wherein it is dismountable and of modular structure.

19 (previously presented) The liquid distributor according to Claim 18, wherein the individual parts can be plugged in.

20 (previously presented) The liquid distributor according to Claim 13, wherein the overflow weirs of the upper distribution tray of the second liquid distribution system exhibit a serrated shape on its upper edge or lower edge, or both.

21 (previously presented) The liquid distributor according to Claim 13, wherein the lower distribution tray is provided with overflow weirs or plate holes, each of which exhibit three outlets offset by 120 degrees, which outlets are each assigned flush to an inlet sleeve.

22 (previously presented) The liquid distributor according to Claim 13, wherein the lower distribution tray is provided with discharge flow aids at its openings.

23 (previously presented) The liquid distributor according to Claim 13, wherein the inlet sleeves are positively connected to the tubesheet and the tubes.

24 (previously presented) The liquid distributor according to Claim 13, wherein the inlet sleeves are rolled into the tube ends.

25 (previously presented) A process for two liquid phases to be uniformly distributed into a plurality of tubes of an upright tube-bundle reactor, the liquids being two liquids which cannot be mixed and which, because of their non-miscibility, cannot be pre-mixed, wherein the liquids are introduced separately into the individual tubes of the tube bundle.

26 (currently amended) The process according to Claim [[13]] 25, wherein not only the two liquids but also a gas flow is fed into the individual tubes of the tube bundle.

27 (currently amended) A method of utilizing ~~the~~ a liquid distributor ~~according to Claim 13, the distributor~~ comprising:

a first liquid distribution system is arranged above a tubesheet or on it, which first system is connected to at least one outer feed device, and contains a weir, installed outside the tubed area, with openings at the bottom and a plurality of inlet sleeves,

wherein one inlet sleeve is assigned at the top to each of the tubes in a tube bundle, the inlet sleeves are of tubular design and are vertically aligned, and the said sleeves have at least one lateral and one further opening located above the tubesheet and are open at the bottom facing each assigned tube in the tube bundle, and

a second liquid distribution system is arranged above the first liquid distribution system.

which system is connected to at least one other outer feed device and contains one upper and one lower distribution tray,

wherein the lower distribution tray contains a plurality of openings which are arranged flush above the inlet sleeves of the first liquid distribution system, and exhibits at least one device for setting a uniform liquid level above the openings,

wherein the upper distribution tray is connected to the feed device for liquid, and contains a plurality of overflow weirs or plate holes from which the liquid is able to discharge into the lower distribution tray, and wherein each of the overflow weirs is assigned to a plurality of openings in the lower distribution tray,

the method comprising uniformly distributing two immiscible liquids into a plurality of tubes of an upright tube-bundle reactor by separately introducing the liquids into the individual tubes of the tube bundle.